RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 6th May, 1987/16 Vaisakha, 1909 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*281. [The questioner (Shri V. Narayanasamy) was absent. For answer, vide col. 36 infra.]

Khurda—Bolangir Rail Line

*282. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was conducted by railways for the laying of Khurda—Bolangir rail line under South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. by RITES.

(b) The total length of the project line is 289 kms. The estimated cost is Rs. 209 crores.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: As regards transport, emphasis has been given in the Seventh Five Year Plan, that the crucial task is as a special case, to increase the capacity of transport system in step with the economic development of the country. As such, emphasis has to be given on economically backward areas which have not been linked with railways. The necessity of this line is being felt by the people of four districts out of which one is tribal dominated i.e. Phulbani. Enough mineral and forest resources are available in this area. A number of industries have come up due to liberal industrial policy of the State Government. In this regard, already a local M.P., Shri Somnath Rath has written a letter to the hon. Minister demanding to connect this line with Gopalpur Point. I would also like to refer to the recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now put the question. Time is over.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: My question is, in view of the declared policy of the Government to give priority to undeveloped areas, I would like to know the circumstances in which the project is said to have been abondoned.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The report is still under scrutiny.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: My second supplementary. Is it a fact that the RITE company was given the charge to conduct the survey of this line from Khurda to Bolangir? If so, how much amount was paid to this company?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The survey was conducted by RITES which is a fully-owned subsidiary of the Indian Railways and they have completed the survey. The report is under scrutiny.

SHRI BASUDEV MOHAPATRA: What is the amount spent?

MR CHAIRMAN: There is no other supplementray. Next question.

Commemorative Postal Stamps

*293. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:†

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhagatram Manhar.